

The following Listing of the Claims will replace all prior versions and all prior listings of the claims in the present application:

Listing of The Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently amended) An ~~integrated endoscope and medical treatment accessory~~ comprising:
an endoscope shaft having:
proximal and distal ends;
one or more uninterrupted lumens extending therethrough;
a non-detachable treatment accessory integrated at the its distal end of the shaft, wherein the treatment accessory further comprises a tissue apposition device comprising at least one suction port and at least one needle longitudinally slidable through the accessory to penetrate tissue aspirated into the suction port;
non-detachable housing for the accessory integrated into the endoscope shaft;
one or more at least one accessory control elements element extending through the one or more lumens length of the endoscope shaft; and
an accessory control mechanism mounted at the proximal end of the endoscope.
3. (Previously presented) An integrated endoscope as defined in Claim 2 wherein the treatment accessory comprises a tissue apposition device formed as a cylindrical cartridge that mounts over a reduced diameter portion of the endoscope.
4. (Previously presented) An integrated endoscope as defined in Claim 3 wherein the cylindrical cartridge further comprises a side suction port and at least one tissue capturing means that is advanced through captured tissue along a circumferential path that rotates about a longitudinal axis of the endoscope.

5. (Previously presented) An integrated endoscope as defined in Claim 4 wherein the suction port further comprises a partition wall that forces aspirated tissue to form into two separate tissue mounds.

6. (Previously presented) An integrated endoscope as defined in Claim 2 wherein the treatment accessory comprises a tissue suturing device having at least one suction port and vacuum chamber and a semi-circular needle configured to be advanced in a circular path that traverses the vacuum chamber and tissue aspirated therein.

7. (Previously presented) An integrated endoscope as defined in Claim 2 wherein the treatment accessory further comprises a tissue apposition device having at least one suction port and vacuum chamber having a bottom surface and an optical viewing port and air and water port are present on the bottom surface.

8. (Original) An integrated endoscope as defined in Claim 7 wherein the treatment accessory further comprises an optical viewing port and air and water port located at a distal tip of the endoscope accessory.

9. (Previously presented) An integrated endoscope as defined in Claim 2 wherein the treatment accessory further comprises a tissue apposition device having an angulated distal face that is oriented at an acute angle from the longitudinal axis of the endoscope;

 a suction port opened on the distal face to a vacuum chamber having a back wall surface; an optical viewing port and vacuum port arranged on the back wall surface of the vacuum chamber and

 a needle configured to be advanced so that it traverses the vacuum chamber at an orientation that is parallel to the distal face.

10. (Previously presented) An integrated endoscope as defined in Claim 2 wherein the treatment accessory further comprises a tissue apposition device having a suction port with a partial partition wall to divide tissue aspirated into the port into two portions;

at least one staple oriented to be advanced through captured tissue portions and closed upon an anvil located at a distal end of the accessory, and

a staple driver for advancing a staple longitudinally through the accessory and captured tissue portions.

11. (Previously presented) An integrated endoscope as defined in Claim 2 wherein the treatment accessory further comprises;

at least one access port adjacent the distal end of the endoscope and a tissue grasping device arranged to be advanced through the access port and operated to grasp tissue and pull it through the access port into the accessory.

12. (Currently amended) A method of performing an endoscopic medical procedure comprising:

providing an endoscope comprising:

an endoscope shaft having:

proximal and distal ends;

one or more uninterrupted lumens extending therethrough;

a non-detachable treatment accessory integrated at the its distal end of the shaft, wherein the treatment accessory comprises a an integrated tissue apposition device comprising at least one suction port and at least one needle longitudinally slidable through the accessory to penetrate tissue aspirated into the suction port; tissue apposition device;

non-detachable housing for the accessory integrated into the endoscope shaft;

one or more accessory control elements extending through the one or more lumens of the endoscope shaft; and

an accessory control mechanism mounted at the proximal end of the endoscope;

inserting the distal end of the endoscope into a patient and navigating it to a treatment site carrying out a medical procedure involving manipulation of internal

tissues, without introducing a secondary medical device through the endoscope or external to the endoscope, and

withdrawing the endoscope from the patient.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, where the tissue apposition device is comprised within a treatment accessory that is integrated into the distal end of the endoscope.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, where the endoscope comprises:

at least one accessory control element extending through the length of the endoscope; and

an accessory control mechanism mounted at the proximal end of the endoscope.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein the tissue apposition device is formed as a cylindrical cartridge that mounts over a reduced diameter portion of the endoscope.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the cylindrical cartridge further comprises a side suction port and at least one tissue capturing means that is advanced through captured tissue along a circumferential path that rotates about a longitudinal axis of the endoscope.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the suction port further comprises a partition wall that forces aspirated tissue to form into two separate tissue mounds.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein the tissue apposition device comprises a vacuum chamber and a semi-circular needle configured to

be advanced in a circular path that traverses the vacuum chamber and tissue aspirated therein.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein the tissue apposition device further comprises a vacuum chamber having a bottom surface and an optical viewing port and an air and water port are present on the bottom surface.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein the tissue apposition device further comprises an optical viewing port and air and water port located at a distal tip of the endoscope accessory.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein the tissue apposition device comprises:

an angulated distal face that is oriented at an acute angle from the longitudinal axis of the endoscope;

a suction port opened on the distal face to a vacuum chamber having a back wall surface, an optical viewing port and vacuum port arranged on the back wall surface of the vacuum chamber and

a needle configured to be advanced so that it traverses the vacuum chamber at an orientation that is parallel to the distal face.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein the tissue apposition device further comprises:

a suction port with a partial partition wall to divide tissue aspirated into the port into two portions;

at least one staple oriented to be advanced through captured tissue portions and closed upon an anvil located at a distal end of the device, and

a staple driver for advancing a staple longitudinally through the device and captured tissue portions.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein the tissue apposition device further comprises;

at least one access port adjacent the distal end of the endoscope; and

a tissue grasping device arranged to be advanced through the access port and operated to grasp tissue and pull it through the access port into the device.